



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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APACHE JUNCTION MAN SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS FEDERAL PRISON FOR POSSESSING 4,300 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA FOUND IN ORO VALLEY HOME

TUCSON, ARIZ –The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on April 21, 2004, Thomas Christopher Foster, D.O.B. 11/17/77, of Apache Junction, Arizona, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, by United States District Judge John M. Roll, in Tucson, Arizona. He was also ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000.00.

On February 4, 2004, Mr. Foster entered a guilty plea to an indictment charging him with Possession with Intent to Distribute 1,000 kilograms or more of Marijuana in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1) and 841 (b)(1)(A). Mr. Foster agreed to a mandatory term of imprisonment of 10 years.

On April 26, 2003, Oro Valley Police Officers received a tip indicating that there was a strong odor of marijuana coming from a residence on West Desert Cloud Place in Oro Valley, Arizona. Oro Valley police officers established surveillance of the residence. They observed Mr. Foster and two female juveniles leave the residence and walk toward a truck that was parked at

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the home. Officers approached all three individuals and detected the smell of marijuana. Mr. Foster told officers he was going to a convenience store and was going to use the truck that was parked in front of the residence. He said the truck belonged to his friend. Officers ran a records check on the defendant and learned he had outstanding felony warrants, and arrested him. Oro Valley police officers obtained a search warrant for the home and found approximately 4,300 pounds marijuana in the master bedroom and in the master bedroom closet. Mr. Foster told officers that he had been staying at the residence for a few days.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Oro Valley Police Department.

The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1561-TUC-JMR (JM)
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